The Builder.

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O please some of our readers, who tell us they like gossip, and have no time for long disquisitions, we begin our present number with a dish of it—a paper of paragraphs, the first of which shall be to set us right with some few of our subscribers, who complain that they did not receive the promised view of the Interior of the Exhibition Building with our first number for the new year. They must transfer their reproaches to their respective newsmen: the view accompanied every copy that left our office, and should have reached them in due course. It has given us pleasure to receive from all sides kindly acknowledgments for the manner in which our promises were redeemed. We may add that the number has been reprinted, and, with the view of the building in Hyde-park, may still be obtained by those who desire it.

The executive committee have taken possession of that building (although still unfinished), and have issued cards to the various metropolitan local commissioners, inviting them to assist in the arrangement of the Exhibition. It appears that the productions of the United Kingdom and the British colonies will be grouped westward of the central transept. The productions of each colony will be placed together, and classified as far as practicable into thirty classes. The productions of each foreign country will be placed together *eastward* of the transept, except machinery in motion, which, on account of the motive power being at the north-west end of the building, will be placed in that part of the building. The productions of each country will be classified, nation by nation, and, as far as practicable, into the thirty classes adopted for the united kingdom. We may add that, as a general rule, machinery will be placed at the north side, and raw materials and produce brought to the south side of the building. The intermediate parts will be occupied by manufactures and fine arts.

The Commissioners have undertaken to provide steam gratuitously for exhibitors, not exceeding 30 lbs. per inch, and to supply water at a high pressure. The allotments will now be made.* We grieve for many applicants who have been refused because they were unable to show what they intended to exhibit, and, as we think it likely that many to whom space has been granted will not wholly occupy it, we would recommend to the former a second application, asking to have their claim reconsidered, in the event of room being available, —more especially if they can make *wall*-space suit their purpose.†——How the multitudes who will visit London on this occasion are to be lodged, is still a question. That the number will be enormous no one now doubts, although few even yet realise what we expect will be the truth. Three months ago when we asserted our belief, in private society, that two millions of persons would pass through the Exhibition, the notion was derided by some of the warmest supporters of the project, but the increasing experience of every day leads us to believe that we were under rather than over the mark. The executive committee have stated, in reply to inquiries, that they do not intend "to find lodging for persons visiting the Exhibition, or to interfere with individual enterprise," and they recommend the employment of some London agents to secure the accommodation that may be required. Mr. Lahee, the well-known agent, of Bond-street, has put himself into communication with the provincial commissioners and some of the foreign states, and taken other large means of assisting effectually in this matter. We will venture to say to such of our foreign readers as may need assistance in this respect that they cannot be in safer hands.——We continue to receive letters from poor inventors asserting that the want of means for obtaining protection for their inventions will prevent them from exhibiting. One states that "were it not for the expense of obtaining protection he could place it in the power of the public to make their own gas on the table by a machine like a common table lamp, giving, without attention, a light of great brilliancy and purity at *one-third the expense of coal gas*: that the lamp requires no preparatory heating, has only to be turned on and lighted, and could be sold at about the same price as an ordinary table lamp." How true this may be we cannot say; but such are the statements we receive. It is asserted that her Majesty's Government intend to bring in a Bill for the purpose of protecting from piracy inventions, &c., not already protected by the Designs Act of last year; and we hope the report is correct. That there will be change in our patent laws seems quite certain.

Something has been said about allowing the erection of places of amusement in the Park, but we hope this will not be listened to. There should be nothing outside the building to induce the idle to resort there: the crowd will be quite sufficient without that, as any one may prove by walking to the park even now on a fine Sunday. Light bridges over the road, for the sake of pedestrians, will be found necessary.

In connection with this matter, we are glad to be able to re-assure several correspondents, on the subject of the building now being erected on the piece of ground on the west side of the large house at Albert-gate,—who have been led, by the rumours of Batty's Circus, monster kitchens, &c. &c. for the grand year, to fear all sorts of noisy things in this new building. They may dismiss their alarm, however: the structure is intended to accommodate the Chinese Exhibition, as quiet and inoffensive an appropriation as they could possibly hope for.

A fine model of the exhibition building, of large size, has been made by Mr. Deighton, and will have a place in the Exhibition.——To descend from great things to small, we will mention the pleasure with which we saw the other day another model of the same building, by John Trumble, a working man employed in the machine-room department of the printing-office of Messrs. Cox and Wyman, made wholly in his leisure time, brief as this is, from the drawings and descriptions which have appeared in The Builder. It is about 4 feet long, and speaks well for his ingenuity and industry. Some of our readers who say they have "no time" to improve themselves, might take a lesson from him. How much time do most of us waste, even the industrious of us, and that chiefly through not varying our labour. Hazlitt says, with truth,—"It is wonderful how much is done in a short space, provided we set about it properly, and give our minds wholly to it. Let every one devote himself to any art or science ever so strenuously, and he will still have leisure to make considerable progress in half-a-dozen other acquirements. Leonardo da Vinci was a mathematician, a musician, a poet, and an anatomist, besides being one of the greatest painters of his age. Michaelangelo was a prodigy of versatility of talent—a writer of sonnets (which Wordsworth thought worthy of translating), and the friend of Dante. All our real labour lies in a nut-shell. The mind makes, at some period or other, one Herculean effort, and the rest is mechanical. We have to climb a steep and narrow precipice at first; but after that the way is broad and easy, where we drive several accomplishments abreast."

A man now-a-days must have something of the steam-engine in him. We found a sentence in an American paper the other day to the same effect,—coarse, but not without force. "A lazy, snail-paced chap," said the writer, "might have got on in the world fifty years ago, but he won't do these times. We live in an age of quick ideas: men think quick—speak quick—and slow coaches ain't tolerated. 'Be up and dressed' always—not gaping and rubbing your eyes, as if you were half asleep, but wide awake for whatever may turn up, and you may be somebody before you die. Think, plan, reflect as much as you please before you act; but think quickly and closely, and when you have fixed your eyes to an object spring to the mark at once."

We must take care, however, that the mark be a good one: merely "to get on in the world" is not the right motive.

We should be glad to see English sculpture show well at the Exhibition, and hope care will be taken to obtain a proper light for all the specimens sent. In its highest form,—the ideal, —we fear we shall not come off satisfactorily. Sincerely, we hope we may be wrong.——The models, seventeen in number, which have been sent in by nine eminent sculptors, for the Manchester memorial to Sir Robert Peel, are now under consideration. It was decided that only one member of the committee should know the names of the competitors, and the task of ascertaining these was confided to the Bishop of Manchester: it is the intention of the committee that all the unsuccessful models shall be returned to their authors, without the name of any one becoming known in connection with the sending in of a model. All this, however, practically, will go for nothing. It is to be hoped, as we urged to members of the committee some time ago, that they will call in some men of known taste and knowledge of the subject to aid them in the decision. The models are at present visible to the committee

* There will be a central passage down the building, 48 feet wide; a corridor at the north and south side, each 13 feet wide, and two intermediate passages, of 8 feet, all running from the east to the west ends of the building. As a general rule, these will be intersected by passages at right angles, running from north to south.

† The model of Liverpool, which is to figure amongst the contributions from that town, is fast approaching to completion, twenty-four hands being engaged on it, including some young women, who are employed to execute the lighter work in connexion with the shipping. The size of the model has been extended some twenty square feet, so as to take in more of the town, the principal parts of which will be depicted. Mr. Grantham, Mr. Raffles Brown, and Mr. David Graham are the parties more immediately engaged upon it. The *Albion* says considerable trouble has been gone to to produce the effect of water. The material to be used is glass, the manufacture of St. Helen's. It will be unground on the upper surface, to give it the appearance of waves, the under part to be polished and silvered, so as to reflect the objects by which it will be overshadowed. No fewer than 1,500 "model vessels" are in course of construction. There will, we understand, be 120 steam-vessels, large and small. Another feature in the model will be the figures in the streets, which will include cabs, omnibuses, and other vehicles. The men and horses are cut out of cardboard, and are exceedingly perfect, when we take into account their minuteness, a man being no larger than the extremity of a fine pen's point. The tympanum of the pediment, instead of having figures carved in relief, as was at first proposed, will be filled with stained glass, having the royal arms depicted on the centre. The effect will be very rich. Beneath the arms will be the words, "The Port of Liverpool," and on scrolls round the case appropriate motive will be introduced.

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